GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2016
Radiation from Towers
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of permissible limit of radiation from mobile towers in India and number of cell towers, that are yet to get radiation certificate operator-wise;

(b) whether the Government has the records of the mobile towers installed without prior clearance from concerned bodies and local authorities in various parts
of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of mobile towers sealed/removed for violation of norms along with the tower under scanner; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against erring operators and the steps taken to enforce the telecom service providers to comply with the operating norms?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) Madam, the present permissible limit of radiation from mobile towers in India for antennae (Base Station) electromagnetic frequency (EMF) emissions for general public exposure are as follows:
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Frequency Range E-Field Strength (Volt/Meter) H-Field Strength (Amp/Meter) Power Density (Watt/Sq.Meter)
400MHz to 2000MHz 0.434f Â½ 0.0011f Â½ f/2000
2GHz to 300GHz 19.29 0.05 1

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(f = frequency in MHz)
All new BTS sites are required to start radiating commercially only after self certificates are submitted to relevant Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) that they are compliant to EMF radiation norms.

(b) & (c) As per the existing policy for installation of towers, Wireless Planning & Coordination (WPC) wing of DoT issues siting clearance for installation of mobile towers for each and every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. However, before installation of tower, the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have to obtain necessary right of way related clearances from concerned local authorities/ State Government bodies also. Various local bodies/State Government have formulated their own policy regarding grant of such permissions for installation of mobile towers. DoT does not maintain the information about grant of such permissions by State Government bodies / Local authorities.

(d) & (e) In order to ensure compliance to the prescribed norms of EMF radiation from base transceiver stations (BTSs) installed at mobile towers, the extensive audit of self-certificates being submitted by TSPs and BTS sites are carried out by Telecom Enforcement Resource & Monitoring (TERM) field units of DoT. Additionally, the BTS sites against which there are public complaints are also tested by TERM Cell. In case, any BTS site is found to violate the prescribed EMF norms, actions are taken to put a penalty of Rs. 10 lakh per BTS per incidence including closing of BTS site, if the violation persists. As on 31.12.2015, a total of 2,57,457 number of BTSs have been tested by various TERM Cells to cross-check EMF radiation exposure norms, out of which a total of 192 BTSs have been found non-compliant to EMF radiation norms. A total penalty of Rupees 10,80,00,000/- have been imposed on these BTSs by DoT and one BTS in Haryana license service area has been removed due to violation of EMF norms.

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